



PARKS AND TRAILS COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, August 27, 2024 at 4:00 PM

APPROVED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair Scott Jacobson
Vice Chair Dana Lathrope
Commissioner Jerry Belcher
Commissioner Howard Blumenthal
Commissioner Nicholas Hellmich
Commissioner Lynne Pettit

MEMBERS ABSENT

Commissioner Paul Barlow
Commissioner Reid Herman
Commissioner Jacob Woodruff

STAFF PRESENT

Buck Tupper, Facilities Maintenance Supervisor
Brandon Sundeen, City Councilor
Sheri Ingram, P&T Commission Secretary
Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder

CALL TO ORDER - 4:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Annual Report to Council

Briefly discussed and made a couple of changes to the Annual Report to Council and decided who would present different parts at the Council Meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner Blumenthal to present the Report with the changes they decided on, Seconded by Commissioner Hellmich.

Voting Yea: Chair Jacobson, Vice Chair Lathrope, Commissioner Belcher, Commissioner Blumenthal, Commissioner Hellmich, Commissioner Pettit

2. Milton Creek Woodland Reserve Project

Jacobson went through the rough draft of the presentation he made to make the Milton Creek Preserve. He said there are phases that overlap. They need to get the word out to stakeholders and work on funding.

They need to come up with the best way to approach Council for approval and how to approach the Port about their property.

Hellmich asked if the property being sold would affect this and Jacobson and Tupper both said no. Belcher's map shows the old Boise Park in 100-year flood plain. Belcher said he'd like to see it made into a City park and the camas field saved. The map shows a trail and it is in the City Master Plan. They would need enough setback when lots are sold to build a new trail. Trails and historic quarries need to be saved. They have to talk to Walsh to see what the City wants to do and what the Port wants to do. The process will probably take several years. Jacobson says they should make a wish list and present it to Council. Belcher said there is a strip in the 100-year flood plain along the upper lots. Jacobson said they could talk to Walsh about putting that in when they go to sell the lots. Belcher would like to see a lot line adjustment done before because once they are sold, they can't do anything. Sundeen thinks lines are just drawn in but not officially platted yet. Tupper doesn't think anything has been surveyed.

Tupper said last he heard, it looks like the new substation will be mostly in the mill parking lot. Belcher said they would also have to get permission to use the bridge to walk across but Hellmich said the bridge is pretty sketchy. Pettitt said there was a little piece of land north of the Boise property owned by the fire department. She was wondering what was happening with that. Maybe it could be used to make a trail through there. Tupper said he could look into it.

Jacobson said they need to come up with the desired features they'd like to see in there. Hellmich said his number one would be to have the trail be ADA accessible and Jacobson said in his presentation, he had an ADA trail by the Rec Center that could be paved. Belcher asked what materials they can have other than asphalt or concrete and Hellmich said it can be gravel or compacted dirt like clay if ADA approved. There also might be grants through the State for ADA trails. He would like the loop trail to be inclusive if possible so all abilities could access it and enjoy it. Pettitt said she is considering maintenance because we don't have the staff or funds to have bathrooms and picnic tables and garbage so her suggestion would be to have donated benches along trail and just a matter of keeping the trail wide. Jacobson said they can start small and add things as it goes along.

Lathrope said she would like to see some form of restroom and garbage facility somewhere along the trail maybe halfway around. Jacobson said it would be hard to dig for a pit toilet since it is solid rock down there. Tupper said those types of restrooms are probably the worst to maintain and there is no way to get a truck out there to pump it out.

Tupper said keep costs in mind. When you start talking ADA, you are talking about a lot of money. Maintenance would be huge. The parks get trashed when they do have restrooms and garbage cans. People go through the garbage for cans and steal the liners for raincoats and vandalism will be bad since no one will be able to see if someone is doing stuff back there. Keep things simple for now and you can always build more later. Sundeen asked what will set it aside from McCormick. They would have two parks side by side that have trails and playground equip is expensive. They have other parks with no playgrounds and already have a nice new one at McCormick. Jacobson said this is just a wish list. Belcher said the big thing

is to get a commitment from the City and Port to get it going. Thinks it will take years but it is something to have for the future. If there is no commitment from the City to set it aside, this is all moot. He thinks with all the people who worked down there, he would think people would want the park saved.

Jacobson said there is interest from community members. He thinks they have identified most of what they want. Lathrope said they should focus on saving it for future uses and seeing where it is at in five years. Other parks need attention so thinks draining money for another park is doing a disservice but securing it for future use is good.

Belcher said they need to think about what St Helens will look like in 20 years. He thinks it will grow so they should get things like this for future growth. Lathrope said a nice walking area could be attractive to future developers in the industrial area for employees. Hellmich thinks it could be more focused on peace and nature since McCormick can be very busy and loud. Tupper wondered how loud it was when mill was operating.

Belcher said they need to decide how to approach the Port and the City. Jacobson said they need better maps with things partitioned. They need to gather information and put it together for a skeletal first draft. He will try to get done for September.

They need to look for grants/budget for creating a trail. He asked Sundeen if he could look at historic/prehistoric components and give them a basic rundown. Petitt said it would be interested in finding out if a Native American village would be a heritage site.

Hellmich said they need to identify stakeholders, media, how best to approach. Blecher said he is willing to have an informal talk with the Port to see what they think. He will tell them what they discussed here. Sundeen thinks the focus should be to still get the City side done no matter what the Port does. Jacobson suggested talking to a reporter to maybe get them to do a story and Sundeen suggested they talk to Communications Officer King first.

Petitt agrees they should get a yea or nay from the City before going any further.

Sundeen said a big thing Council will want is a map with info and acreage on it. Tupper said if they go through the City for maps, to go through him.

ADJOURNMENT - 5:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sheri Ingram, Public Works Office Assistant